GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4428
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2005
AGREEMENT WITH THAILAND FOR EXPLORATION OF OIL AND GAS
Sugavanam Shri E.G.

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement was made with Thailand to explore oil and gas in its offshore region and to invest in setting up CNG distribution network;

(b) if so, the present status thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to explore more oil and gas outside the country and to reduce dependence on imports?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS AND PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) PSU Oil Companies like Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) through its subsidiary ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), Oil India Limited (OIL), GAIL (India) Limited, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) have interests in exploration and production acreages abroad. OVL has expanded its portfolio to thirteen countries, namely, Vietnam, Russia, Sudan, Libya, Syria, Iran, Iraq, Myanmar, Egypt, Qatar, Sao Tome & Principe, Cuba and Nigeria. Similarly, OIL-IOC consortium has taken exploration blocks in Libya with OIL as operator. The total investment commitment in overseas E&P projects is estimated to be over US$ 5 billion. OVL`s production from its overseas ventures amounted to 5.06 million metric tonnes of oil and oil equivalent gas during 2004-05. These companies are vigorously pursuing exploration and production opportunities abroad for future acquisitions.